

**STENT WITH PROTRUDING BRANCH PORTION FOR BIFURCATED
VESSELS**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The present application is a continuation-in-part ^{now a *baraboned*} of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/705,247, filed November 12, 2003, which claims the benefit of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/644,550, filed August 21, 2003, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/404,756, filed August 21, 2002, U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/487,226, filed July 16, 2003, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/488,006, filed July 18, 2003, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

[0002] The present application is also continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/668,687, filed September 22, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/326,445, filed June 4, 1999, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,325,826. The present application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/440,401, filed May 19, 2003 which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/750,372, filed December 27, 2000, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,599,316. The present application is also a continuation-in-part ^{now *is* 6706062} of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/963,114, filed September 24, 2001, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/326,445. U.S. Patent Application No. 09/326,445 is continuation-in-part of PCT Application No. US99/00835, filed January 13, 1999, which claims the benefit of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/007,265, filed January 14, 1998, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,210,429, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/744,002, filed November 4, 1996. The entire contents of all of the above references are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The present invention relates to the field of medical stents and, more particularly, to a stent for the treatment of lesions and other problems in or near a vessel bifurcation.